

## **II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A synthesized silica glass optical member manufactured by  
~~a method according to any one of claims 1-11:~~

providing a porous silica glass body;  
heating the porous silica glass body in an atmosphere containing hydrogen; and  
sintering the porous silica glass body in an atmosphere containing a fluorine compound.

Claims 13-18. (Canceled)